This likewiſe was paſſed by very eaſily, becauſe he excuſed himſelf with a fib, by ſaying he had only taken it out of the cage to look at it, and the creature flew away. So being always believed or excuſed, he continually came off without puniſhment.

In conſequence of this good luck (as he thought it) he continued fibbing, and doing miſchief, till one day he paid ſeverely for his folly.

Having reſolved to play truant with ſome of his companions, they agreed

to go into the fields together, where they wandered till it was evening, when, by degrees, Billy loſt all his ſchool-fellows, and, being alone, loſt his way. In ſhort, he was ſo much out of his knowledge, that he, being bewildered, and very ſleepy, went over a ſtile, thinking to lay himſelf down for a little while, but the high graſs had hid a piece of water from him, into which he fell as ſoon as he had croſſed. The place was at

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